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Action

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FROM: GUATEMALA CITY

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 605 MARCH 30, NOON

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDE/MR
REVIEWED BY: 83 DATE: DEC 1987
PORTIONS WITHHELD INDICATED

ACTION DEPARTMENT 605, POLAD CINCARIB UNNUMBERED.

DEPTAL PASS ACSI

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EMBTEL 601. AREVALO HAS INDEED RETURNED GUATEMALA AMERICAN NEWSMAN LATE LAST NIGHT INFORMED EMBASSY OF SECRET INTERVIEW WITH FOUR OR FIVE REPORTERS WITH EX-PRESIDENT IN GUATEMALA CITY AND THIS MORNING'S "PRENSA LIBRE" CARRIES PHOTOS AND REPORTS OF MEETING. AREVALO TOLD REPORTERS: WOULD HAVE PREFERRED ENTER COUNTRY OPENLY BUT STATE OF SIEGE MADE THIS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT RISKING MASSACRE; IS DETERMINED NOT PERMIT HIMSELF BE EXPELLED; WILL REMAIN HIDDEN "SOUTH COAST," SWEATING WITH CAMPESINOS, DRINKING COCONUT MILK AND BATHING WARM WATERS" UNTIL STATE OF SIEGE LIFTED. DENIED HE IS COMMUNIST OR HAS LINKS WITH COMMUNISM; BELIEVED IF HE ELECTED RELATIONS WITH US WOULD BE GOOD "AS LONG AS MR. KENNEDY AND GENTLEMEN FROM HARVARD IN CONTROL." HOWEVER, IF POLICIES JOHN FOSTER DULLES REVIVED, SITUATION WOULD BE DIFFERENT. HE CALLED ON SUPPORTERS GIVE UP PLANS FOR ANY MANIFESTATIONS HIS BEHALF AND ASKED FOR CALM. AREVALISTA PARTIES ANNOUNCED CANCELLATION ALL PLANNED MANIFESTATIONS. AREVALO APPARENTLY PULLED CLEVER HIDDEN BALL PLAY ON GOG. AS LATE AS LAST NIGHT, GOG STILL MAKING ELABORATE PLANS BLOCK HIS SCHEDULED SUNDAY RETURN, HAVING ESTABLISHED COMPREHENSIVE AIR PATROL 34 CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AND ORDERED CLOSING ALL AIRPORTS IN COUNTRY MARCH 31. AREVALO

GUATEMALA 605 POL GUAT

FILED

APR 1 1963

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NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL		DATE OF ACTION	4/2/63	

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-2- 605, MARCH 30, NOON FROM GUATEMALA CITY

SAID HE RETURNED 29TH BUT EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATE 28TH BY SMALL PLANE TO RETALHULEU. GOG SUBSEQUENTLY INSTITUTED CURFEW 8. P.M. TO 6.-.A.M.

AMERICAN NEWSMAN WHO MANAGED SECURE INTERVIEW YDIGORAS SUBSEQUENT REVELATION AREVALO PRESENCE CITY INFORMED EMBASSY PRESIDENT APPEARED ALARMED. QUOTED YDIGORAS AS SAYING IT IMPERATIVE GOG CAPTURE AND EXPEL AREVALO IMMEDIATELY; SAID YDIGORAS EXPRESSED FEAR "COMMUNISTS IN LEAGUE RIGHTISTS OPPOSITION" WOULD ASSASSINATE AREVALO, BLAME GOG AND SPARK "BOGOTAZO".

PRIOR AREVALO INTERVIEW, HIGH AREVALISTA SOURCE, THROUGH INTERMEDIARY, INFORMED EMBASSY AREVALO INTENDED LIE LOW DURING STATE OF SEIGE, EMERGE LEAD CAMPAIGN WITH GREAT MANIFESTATION WHEN IT OVER. SAID IF AREVALO EXPELLED WOULD MERELY RETURN AGAIN AND AGAIN. HOWEVER, IF GOG ATTEMPTED JAIL HIM OR IF ANYONE HARMED HIM IN ANY WAY, CIVIL WAR WOULD RESULT.

[redacted] INFLUENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE "THIRD FORCE" ANTI-AREVALO, ANTI-YDIGORAS FORCES YESTERDAY EVENING (WHILE STILL UNAWARE AREVALO ARRIVAL) INFORMED EMBASSY THAT SHOULD AREVALO MANAGE SNEAK INTO COUNTRY, SITUATION ANTI-AREVALO FORCES WOULD BE DESPERATE. SAID IF THIS OCCURRED, THEY MIGHT TRY SMOKE HIM OUT BY PUBLISHING REPORTS AREVALO ASSASSINATED, THUS ATTEMPTING MAKE HIM SHOW HIMSELF OR STIR UP VIOLENCE HIS FOLLOWERS. [redacted] OPINED ONLY SOLUTION PROBLEM WOULD BE COUP BY MINDEF PERALTA TO TAKE OVER GOG, CANCEL ELECTIONS, AND MAKE AREVALO CANDIDACY IMPOSSIBLE WHEN ELECTIONS RE-SCHEDULED. HE ADDED HE AND COHORTS PRESSURING PERALTA FOR SOME TIME TAKE THIS STEP AND INTENDED CONTINUE DO SO, BUT FOUND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT MOVE HIM TO ACTION DESPITE FACT PERALTA HAD ADMITTED PRESIDENT MIGHT BE PLAYING "DOUBLE GAME" WITH HIM.

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-3- -605, MARCH 30, NOON FROM GUATEMALA CITY

SCP-3.

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NOTE: RELAYED OSD, ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, CIA 3-30-63.